Women Workers in Beedi Industry

1057. DR. (SHRIMATI) BHARTI RAY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 65.9 per cent of workers in Beedi industry are women;

(b) whether any information on the ratio of organised workers to unorganized worker has been attempted;

(c) whether special measures have been taken to protect their rights and conditions of work;

(d) whether steps have been taken to improve the housing conditions of those female beedi workers who take work at home; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) As per the Report on Working and Living Conditions of Workers in Beedi Industry in India prepared by Labour Bureau (1995), it is estimated that 65.9% of workers in the beedi industry are women. Also, as per the same Report, the unorganised labour constitutes more than 90% of the total work force in the country, in general.

(c) Beedi and Cigar Workers (conditions of Employment) Act, 1966, has been enacted to safeguard the interests of beedi workers and to regulate the Conditions of their work.

(d) and (e) Housing Scheme for Economically Weaker Section of Workers engaged in Beedi Industry and Build Your Own House Scheme for Beedi Workers are being implemented by the Government under the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund Act, 1976. Benefits under these schemes are not gender specific.

Varieties of coal found in the country

1058. SHRI RAMJI LAL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the varieties of coal found in the country and the details of their respective annual production;

(b) the year-wise details of the total quantity of coal produced in the country during last two years, togetherwith the production cost thereof;

(c) whether Government have exported/ imported coal during last two years;

(d) if so, the quantity thereof varietywise; and

(e) the reasons for import despite availability of adequate quantity of coal in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) (a) Gradewise coal production in the country during 1995-96 is as under:—

		(Million tonnes)
Coking Coal		40.10
Non-Coking		
Grade	A	4.76
	B	20.22
	C	53.65
	D	37.40
	E	39.68
	F	74.31
	G	0.01
		230.03
	TOTAL	270.13

(b) Total quantity of coal produced in the country and average cost of production of CIL and SCCL during the last two years is as under:—

Year	Production (million tonnes)	Average cost of production (Rs. per tonnes)	
		CIL	SCCL
1994-95	253.73	380.45	543.00
1995-96	270.13	412.66	643.00

(c) and (d) Figures of coal exported by Coal India Limited and coal imported into the country by various consumers mainly steel plants during last two years are as under:—

	1994-95	1995-96
Export Non-Coking	0.11	0.09
Import		
Coking	10.16	9.38
Non-Coking	0.57	3.13
Other coal (including various types of coke or coals etc.)	0.66	0.71

(e) The coking coal is being imported mainly for two reasons:—

(i) To bridge the gap between the requirement and indigenous availability.

(ii) To improve the quality of overall blend for technological reasons for improving blast furnace.

Industrially backward districts

1059. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the Industrially backward districts in India vis-a-vis Madhya Pradesh;

(b) to what extent the new industrial policy has attempted to remove this backwardness; and

(c) the details of steps taken to remove industrial backwardness in these districts of Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Backward districts in the country were identified in the early 70s for the purpose of granting Central Investment Subsidy. The list of identified districts is enclosed as Annexure. [*See* appendix 179, Annexure 21] The Central Investment Subsidy Scheme ceased to exist in September, 1988 and the list of districts which were identified for the purpose of grant of Central Investment Subsidy, therefore, also ceased to have relevance. However, an exercise for identification of backward districts/areas/talukas is in hand in the Ministry of Finance.

(b) After the announcement of new Indistrial Policy and introduction of various measures aimed at liberalisation of the economy the main responsibility of industrialisation of backward areas/districts rests with the State Governments concerned and most of them have been operating various incentive Schemes for their development. Central Government supplements their efforts to the extent possible.

(c) Presently the Government of India is operating the Growth Centre Scheme which aims at promoting industrialisation of backward areas. Under the Scheme, Madhya Pradesh has been allotted 6 (six) Growth Centres at Borai (district Durg), Chainpura (district Guna), Ghirongi (district Bhind), Kheda (district Dhar), Satlapur (district Raisen) and Siltara (district Raipur).

An amount of Rs. 3853.00 lakhs has been released by way of Central assistance towards these Growth Centres.

Under the Integrated Infrastructure Development Scheme, one Centre has been approved at Village Nadan Totla, District Satna in Madhya Pradesh.

Implementation of the Act for providing equal opportunities to disabled persons

1060. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 which was notified by the previous Government has yet to be implemented as the bye-laws, rules and regulations have not been framed so far;

(b) whether due to absence of bye-laws and regulations neither the recommended vital statutory bodies have been abolished nor important schemes formulated for the handicapped;

(c) whether in the absence of these regulatory bodies, schools, colleges and other Government agencies are flouting the Act with impunity; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard and when this Act is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) The Act has been enforced w.e.f. 7.2.96 Various provisions of the Act have to be implemented progresively. Full and complete implementation of the Act is not entirely dependant upon formulating and notifying the rules. However, the Rules under the Act have been framed by the Central Government and are in the process of finalisation in consultation with other Central Government Ministries before its notification.

(b) Establishing the statutory body at the centre and formulation of the schemes is not entirely dependent on the framing of rules. However, the post of Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities has since been created